THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No country has banned Indian Traditional Medicines due to higher toxic metal contents. However, some countries like Australia, USA and UK have issued warnings to the public about the presence of heavy metals above permissible limits.

(b) and (c) Government has taken the following steps to monitor the metallic content in aditional drugs meant tor export:-

(i) Government has introduced mandatory testing for heavy metals in all purely herbal, Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines to be exported which is effective from 1.1.2006 onwards. This has been done to meet the regulatory requiretnents of the importing countries.

(ii) The state Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161 (1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantity of each of the ingredients incorporated therein.

(iii) Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 29, State Drug Testing Laboratories have been strengthened and 26 Private Drug Testing Laboratories and other NABL accredited laboratories have been approved for testing of ASU drugs in the country.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle Partnership Project to study the physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies.

(v) Good manufacturing practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveds, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(d) and (e) The manufacturers of the medicines against who health alerts have been issued by regulatory agencies of other countries have been asked to get their medicines tested for heavy metals and in case they are herbo metallic drugs to get their safety/toxicity tested. As per Ayurveda principles herbo metallic compounds following the detoxification process outlined in classical tests are safe.

Status of IIUS from Gujarat

2297. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3689 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2007 and state the present position of pending proposals from the State Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): Fifteen proposals were received from the State of

Gujarat under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS). Four proposals were sanctioned, four rejected and seven proposals could not be considered because the entire Tenth plan allocation of Rs.675 crore stood committed for the sanctioned projects.

Export of sugar and wheat

2298. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for exporting wheat and sugar to the various countries during the current year 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries which have sent their demand to India for exporting wheat and sugar to their countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, specific target for export of wheat and sugar to various countries during 2007-08 has been fixed by the Department of Commerce.

(c) Currently, the export of wheat from India is banned till 31st December, 2007. Only a quantity of 2000 MTs of wheat has been permitted to be exported during the year 2007-08 to Myanmar under friendly gesture to that country.

Seting up of leather parks

2299. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up leather parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what fiscal and financial incentives shall be given to these parks;

(c) whether the locations of such parks have been identified;

(d) if so, who identifies the locations and what is the size of such parks;

(e) who will be responsible for developing the infrastructure in such parks; and

(f) what will be the role and obligations of the respective State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(e) Special Purpose Vehicle would be responsible for developing the infrastructure in the parks/complexes.

(f) The State Governments or its agencies may participate in the project by providing necessary assistance for infrastructure, power, water and other utilities.